

Jan. 11 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

come. But first, let us enjoy an unhurried dinner together. *[Laughter]*

I ask you to join me in a toast to the President and to the people of Argentina.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:33 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Menem.

Remarks Following the Entertainment at the State Dinner Honoring President Carlos Menem of Argentina

January 11, 1999

President Clinton. Well, we want to say, first of all, thank you to our wonderful musicians, our magnificent dancers. I will never look at you again in quite the same way, Robert. *[Laughter]*

We are very grateful to you, and I hope, Mr. President, you feel a little more at home. Thank you, again.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actor Robert Duvall. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Menem.

Remarks Announcing the Lands Legacy Initiative

January 12, 1999

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for that welcome. Thank you, Jean Mason, for taking the tour with us and for the work you do with the neighborhood association. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for showing up here today and being with us. Jean was telling us that a lot of the schoolchildren in Washington, DC, come to the Arboretum every year on tours. I hope your presence here and her remarks here will lead even more of the city's children to find their way to this remarkable place.

I'd like to thank Thomas Elias for the tour that he gave the Vice President and me and Jean today. And I thank Secretary Babbitt for his strong leadership for the environment, especially in the area that we're discussing today, and Deputy Agriculture Secretary Rich Rominger and the other representatives here from the Agriculture Department, the Commerce Department, the EPA.

And I want to thank Theodore Roosevelt IV for being faithful to his family and his national heritage in all the wonderful work he's done. And I'd like to say just a special word—I see my good friend Senator Gaylord Nelson out

there—people in public life have periodic chances to make an impact that will last far beyond their own lives. I think Senator Nelson certainly has.

Six and a half years ago, in the summer of 1992, in the late spring, when I first talked to Al Gore about joining the ticket in the '92 election, this—what we're here to do today—this is one of the things that I talked to him about. And I said, "I want you to come help me. There are things you know more about than I do." We differ on how many and what they are. *[Laughter]* But anyway, I said, "You know, there are things you know more about than I do." And I said, "We can make a difference that will last forever, for as long as the United States lasts." And he has been faithful to that in this administration, and I'm very grateful to him.

I also want to thank George Frampton for the work that he has done to put this proposal together.

We just took this tour to learn about the vital research the Agriculture Department does here, to also hear about the young children, the families that use this facility. I also heard